

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 36 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN GROUP FOR THE ERADICATION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

DATES: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) initiated a program in 1951 for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) from South America. The program has been successful in eliminating the virus from a large portion of South America. From 1980 to 1990, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and two southern states of Brazil were declared free without vaccination. Parts of Brazil lost FMD-free status in 2001 because of FMD spread from bordering infected countries. This situation has been reversed and those areas are now FMD-free with vaccination.

In March 2004, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and PAHO sponsored a conference in Houston, Texas, with 24 Ministers of Agriculture from the Western Hemisphere, the National Directors of Animal Health Programs, and representatives from the private sector.

One of the outcomes of the Houston Conference was the creation of the Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Grupo Interamericano para la Eradicacion de la Fiebre Aftosa - GIEFA). The GIEFA was tasked with the development of a comprehensive plan to complete the eradication of FMD from the Western Hemisphere. The group was composed of one representative each from the private sector, the public sector, and each of the six regions identified in the original Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of FMD (PHEFA) approved in 1988.

There has been considerable progress in the eradication of FMD from South America, with some resistant foci remaining. It is imperative that control procedures continue in these areas for the overall success of the program. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recognizes the continuing support of the USDA.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and International Services (IS) to continue to support the work of the Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease – Grupo Interamericano para la Eradicacion de la Fiebre Aftosa (GIEFA) with technical assistance, expertise, and training opportunities to achieve the goal of completing the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) from the Western Hemisphere by the year 2010.

RESPONSE:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), International Services (IS)

USDA remains vigorously engaged in, and supportive of, the GIEFA process through (1) dialogue with partner governments in the North American public sector, and (2) through the GIEFA representative for the public sector of North America – an APHIS employee nominated by the APHIS Administrator and confirmed by his counterparts in Canada and Mexico. APHIS IS field staff, in particular the IS attaché in Sao Paulo, Brazil, are actively involved with the GIEFA office at the PAHO/PANAFTOSA office in Rio de Janeiro. The IS attaché, along with others in the region, is active in outbreak attention, planning, and execution of pilot initiatives, particularly in Bolivia and Paraguay.

Most recently, on November 7, 2006, the GIEFA representative for the North American private sector called for a GIEFA meeting in Washington, DC, which was hosted in the FAO offices. The Deputy Administrators of VS and IS attended on behalf of USDA. These officials restated the parameters established by the APHIS Administrator under which USDA would continue to be active in the GIEFA initiative. Principal among these parameters are the concepts of (1) multilateralism of the management and (2) a nonappropriated source of eradication funding supported by the host country private industries. Many multilateral organizations were present (FAO, IICA, PAHO, IDB), as were the GIEFA representatives for North America, for both the public and private sectors. The only other GIEFA member present was the public sector representative for the Southern Cone (South America) countries.

Many issues were discussed, including the administrative form that a hemispheric eradication program would take. The multilateral organizations could not address some issues. Only three members of GIEFA were present, and no focus country (Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Venezuela) had a representative present. USDA called for a meeting of all GIEFA representatives to be convened in South America early in 2007 (January 29-30) where most GIEFA members would be present from all regions of the hemisphere, to make definitive recommendations prior to the March COSALFA meeting in Caracas, Venezuela. The USDA employee serving as the GIEFA North American Public Sector representative will attend this meeting, and the APHIS IS attaché in Brazil is actively supporting the logistics of that meeting.